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WASHINGTON, DC- U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon today joined fellow members of the House Katrina Task Force in releasing a report summarizing recommendations for improving the recovery effort along the Gulf Coast. The report, entitled "[Response, Relief, and Recovery: Katrina and Beyond](#)," details specific legislative proposals members of the Task Force intend to act on when Congress goes back into session.

**"This report is a detailed plan of action for how we in Congress can better help Louisiana and the entire Gulf Coast recover from Katrina and Rita," said Melancon. "Better levees, reforming FEMA, and fast-tracking coastal restoration and comprehensive hurricane protection projects are all included. This report is also a blueprint for how we can better respond to disasters in the future, wherever they may strike."**

The report is based on months of investigations and research by the Task Force, culminating in a four-day trip to the Gulf Coast in August. During the visit, Rep. Melancon held a Hurricane Recovery Policy Forum to bring Members of Congress face to face with local experts and leaders. The 25 Congressmen and women met privately with almost 100 Louisiana elected officials and leaders with expertise in the areas of levees and coastal restoration, health care, education, small business and economic recovery, agriculture and fisheries, transportation, and housing. In small discussion groups, the experts told Members what the situation is on the ground and worked together to develop specific courses of action Congress can take to ease the recovery. Those discussions formed the basis for today's report.

**Melancon concluded, "Over the past year, I've met with storm victims, local**

government officials, and hundreds of other people working every day to rebuild our communities.□ The overwhelming feeling is: we have to do better.□ This report is a huge step in that direction."

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